(b) The details of proposals received so far are as follows:

Area of Activity	No. of proposals received
Basic Telephone Service	81
Cellular Mobile Telephone Service	188
Radio Paging Service	116
Other Value Services	922
Telecom Manufacturing Sector	900

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) All the laws of the Government of India in the areas of Custom and Excise, Import and Export Foreign Exchange Regulation, Reserve Bank of India clearances and the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 etc., are applicable in the respective cases.

(f) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Dual Citizenship

*14. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of American Association of the Physicians from India (AAPI) recently approached Government for issue of dual citizenship; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Home Affairs have not received any representation from American Association of the Physicians from India (AAPI) for grant of dual citizenship. However, question of grant of dual citizenship was considered but not accepted as the concept is not consistent with the Constitution of India and the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Arms smuggling through Samjhauta Express

*15. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many Pakistani nationals who come to India in Samjhauta Express train running between Amritsar and Lahore disappear after reaching India and never return to Pakistan;

(b) whether Government are aware of the arms smuggling through this train: and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) No incident of disappearance of Pak nationals travelling by Samjhauta Express between zero point (Indo-Pak border) and Attari Railway Station has been reported. However, since 1947, a number of Pak nationals who entered India on valid passports/visas have overstayed or became untraced.

(b) Certain instances of arms smuggling by Pak nationals have come to notice. Since 1993 till date, 4 incidents of arms smuggling were detected and appropriate legal action initiated in all the four cases.

(c) (1) The following measures have been taken for preventing disappearance of Pak nationals while travelling in Samjhauta Express.

(i) patrolling along the railway track from border to the railway station by the mounted police and the Border Security Force;

(ii) thorough checking of the train and goods carried by the passengers by the Custom authorities;

(iii) strengthening of security measures, like fencing of the railway track and area around the railway station, improved lighting arrangements;

(iv) coordinated approach in maintenance of vigil by the immigration, state police authorities, customs, railways, etc., and

(v) holding of coordination meeting of all the concerned agencies including railways, customs, State police, Immigration and other agencies.

(2) In regard to Pak nationals who have overstayed or have gone underground after expiry of visa, the State Governments have

been advised to carry out special drives by the State Police to trace the persons and to review the progress of detection/deportation. They have also been asked to take the following steps:—

(i) Nomination of ACP in major cities, ASP in District/sub-division and Inspector in rural areas to deal with cases of Pak nationals;

(ii) holding of monthly coordination meetings by the District Magistrates/ Collectors with concerned officers and furnishing reports to the Chief Secretary for review;

(iii) Change of route is only to be allowed in very exceptional circumstances subject to verification by special Branch and timely advance intimation to the check post of entry.

World Bank assistance for upgradation of Roads and Highways

*16. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank assistance is available for upgradation of roads and highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any such proposals for upgradation from the Government of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether World Bank has agreed to released requisite financial assistance to such proposals of the State; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Presently, the following loans from World Bank are available for upgradation of roads and highways in the country:

(i) Second National Highway Project loan amount US$ 306 million for improvement of about 290 kms. of National Highways sections in the States of Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal and reconstruction of six bridges on State roads in Orissa.

(ii) State Road Project Loan amounting to US$ 37.153 million for Bhagalpur bridge in Bihar.

(iii) Project Preparation Facility Loans for preparation of road project in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Haryana, amounting to US$ 2.4 million and US$ 1.4 million respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) State road totalling about 650 kms. at an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crores.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Involvement of Private Sector for development of National Highways

*17. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sectors have shown any interest in the development or maintenance of National Highways in the country; and

(b) if so, the nature and extent of their involvement?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) Concession agreements for each of the following projects have been finalised with the private sector who would develop the facility and collect user charges:

(i) Thane-Bhiwandi bypass on NH 3 in Maharashtra

(ii) Udaipur bypass on NH 8 in Rajasthan

(iii) Road Over Bridge across Rail at Chalthan on NH 8 in Gujarat.

Setting up of Air Force Veteran's Hospital

*18. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Super Speciality Air Force Veteran's Hospital (SSAVH) is being